

C O P Y

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - MEDICAL BRANCH
Galveston

CONFIDENTIAL

October 22, 1958

Dr. Robert C. Hockett
Associate Scientific Director
Tobacco Industry Research Committee
150 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Dr. Hockett:

Many thanks for your very comprehensive letter of October 16.

With regard to the material which we obtained from the Ecusta Paper Division, we found that it was so toxic that we could only use very dilute concentrations. Removal of the acid-base fraction would still require a dose which we feel might be too high for cell studies. We fear that the base-free method does not remove many of the non-carcinogenic constituents. I suspect that we would have to employ dilutions roughly four times greater than were needed for Fraction 3. Also, its solubility might be relatively low in acetone. On the basis of what we have done, we think that Fraction 3 of Jack Neal's was more completely rid of the non-important substance, yet retained a fluorescent compound which produced regular cytopathological effects. Does the Ecusta group have a comparable fraction of high potency? What we got from them had to be kept frozen. We feel that the effective agent for cell study should not be thermolabile at body temperature. The compound obtained from them cost \$28.20 for two ampules and we had to accept the stipulation "that in any public reference to your work, no mention be made of Ecusta or Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation as the source of the condensate unless you first obtain clearance from us." On general grounds, I would think that scientists would be far happier if investigations in this field involved raw materials and experiments entirely governed by non-commercial interests. The strength of our present work in part is that it was produced entirely by people in the academic setting, who have nothing to gain or lose as a result of whatever conclusions are reached so long as all materials are available to other workers and the methods employed are fully described. I hope you will communicate with me again on these several points before I discuss the matter of Jack Neal's reapplication to your Committee.

Doctors Nakanishi and Mizutani are in the course of studying the effect of benzpyrine alone and in combination with Fraction 3 on the chromosomal configuration of their test cells. We hope to be able to give you a provisional report before your next board meeting in early December.

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On the basis of academic commitments, Doctor Nakanishi should return to Japan in April. However, he would like to attend the Federation meetings before leaving the United States, since he will have an important paper for presentation at that time. He would like to return to the U.S.A. at a later date. In view of the fact that students trained by Professor Makino at Hokkaido University have been so very successful in this laboratory and because there is so much more work ahead, I would like to replace Doctor Nakanishi with Doctor Y. Ohnuki who is very highly recommended. Now that Doctor Mizutani is well oriented in the area of research, he could assist us in the training of Doctor Ohnuki. We would like to be able to offer him the same financial arrangements as we had for Doctor Mizutani.

Doctors Nakanishi and Mizutani were invited by Doctor J. J. Biesele to discuss their results at a graduate seminar in cytology at the University of Texas in Austin. Among those present were Doctors Oliver, Stone and T. S. Painter. In a recent visit to Austin, Doctor Painter expressed his admiration of the work these Japanese scholars are doing. I also have had evidence from the other men that they were greatly impressed with the manner in which our chromosomal studies are being attacked.

Recently, we have had several very distinguished investigators who have had an opportunity to look over the data which has accumulated under the sponsorship of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee. Among these have been Doctor John A. Milne of the Pathology Department of Glasgow University, Professor Kenneth M. Smith of Cambridge University, England, Doctor Robert Leader of the Veterinary Pathology Department at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, and Doctor John B. Thomison of the Department of Pathology at Vanderbilt Medical School. All agree quite spontaneously that the demonstration of chromosomal changes in tissue culture as they are being studied by Doctors Nakanishi and Mizutani constitute a very basic contribution to experimental biology and medicine. We certainly hope that we can continue with this distinguished effort and appreciate the trust and interest that you have shown in the undertaking.

With very cordial regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ C. M. Pomerat
Professor of Cytology

CMP:jf

cc: Dr. Y. H. Nakanishi

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